

GREEN MOUNTAIN FREEMAN, DEC. 19, 1861.

BY TELEGRAPH
TO THE FREEMAN
7 O'CLOCK, A. M.

FOREIGN.
The New York *Evening Post* learns from confidential sources of the highest character, that London, that the British Government propose to ask an explanation of the Trent affair, and perhaps an apology will be asked for an irregular proceeding; but no mention is made of my demand for the surrender of the rebel prisoners. The English writers hope the subject will be treated by us with patience and a kindly spirit.

FROM KENTUCKY.

Gen. Buell commanding the Federal forces in Kentucky sends to headquarters the following:

LOUISVILLE, Dec. 18.

Major Gen. McClellan:—
Acting's Division is at Munfordville. Gen. Mitchell is at Bacon's Creek. Zollicoffer is still retreating across the Cumberland river in preparing to do so at the approach of any superior force.

Gen. McCook reported that the rebels attacked my pickets in front of the railroad bridge at 1 p.m. to-day. The pickets consisted of our companies of the 32d Indiana, Col. W. Wilkes, under Lieut. Col. Van Ischel. Their forces consisted of a regiment of Texas Rangers, two regiments of infantry, and one battery of six guns. Our loss was Lieut. Saxe & 8 enlisted men killed, and ten wounded. The rebel loss was 30 killed, including the Col. of the Texan Rangers, and about 50 wounded. The rebels retreated ingloriously.

(Signed.) D. C. BULL.

Brigadier General.

The recent Munfordville engagement, considering the disproportion of numbers, proves the most Federal victory yet achieved. Four companies of about 350 men of Col. Wallack's regiment, led by the Lieut. Colonel, drove back over 100 rebel cavalry, artillery and infantry. They were first attacked by a regiment of Texas cavalry whom they repulsed, when they were driven into ambuscade and fired at on all sides by the rebel infantry. The Federals returned the fire vigorously, and stood their ground until the rebels fled back, leaving all their dead and most of their wounded on the field. No reinforcements reached Van Weebler, the Federal Commander, as reported, till after the engagement was over. Some's Louisville battery supported the Federals from the North side of Green river, firing a very long range from rifled cannon. Four other companies were on the South side of the river, but were engaged as pickets of a mile distant from the action.

FROM GEN. BANKS' COMMAND.

A gentleman who arrived at Frederick from Williamsport late Tuesday night report that Gen. Jackson's brigade has been largely increased and is supposed to amount to 3000 men at Falling Waters. At 9 o'clock in the evening 30 wagons belonging to the rebels were hauled down to the shore, and a boat from each quickly launched into the river.

Two of the boats, which were of larger size, were for transportation of Jackson's artillery, at this juncture our informant left for Gen. Banks' headquarters. He thinks the object of Jackson is to cross, dash on Williamsport and seize the stores and arms there. He informed Col. Leonard of all that was transpiring, and thinks the latter has taken full precautions to prevent it by removing the stores, &c., to a more secure place, and that he also took steps to concentrate all his available forces to prevent the passage of the river.

This informant passed the 5th Conn. regiment en route for Williamsport two miles Northwest of Bonniesburgh, sixteen miles from Williamsport, and Beres' battery three-fourths of a mile to the rear of the Conn. 5th. Later informant states that the battery reached Williamsport at 6 o'clock Tuesday morning having passed the Conn. regiment.

A deserter from Jackson's brigade, a resident of Fauquier County, Va., was met at Dan's Gap on Tuesday, who said Jackson had not less than 15000 men, but this is considered an exaggeration. The deserter stated that Jackson's regulars, including a Georgia regiment which had just joined him, were determined to go to the devil with their commander, but the militia were equally as obstinate in refusing to pass the river. Jackson was determined to cross the Potomac Wednesday morning.

On receipt of this intelligence by Gen. Banks, an order was issued to the third brigade, Gen. Williams' command, to be prepared to perform a forced march to Williamsport at a moment's notice, but up to 10 o'clock Wednesday morning the brigade had not moved, but was in readiness to leave.

Washington, Dec. 18. The proclamation of Gen. Phelps at Ship Island is condemned by all classes of politicians. It was his individual act, and must therefore be regarded accordingly.

THIRTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS.

Wednesday, Dec. 18.

SENATE.

Mr. Trumbull presented the petition of citizens of St. Louis, laborers on public works, asking that the several amounts due them be paid. Mr. Sumner presented a petition from citizens of Vermont for the repeal of the Fugitive Slave Law.

Mr. Saulsbury offered a resolution asking the Secretary of War to furnish the Senate with a copy of the proclamation of Gen. Phelps, and by what authority it was made.

Mr. Doubtless introduced a bill for the collection of taxes in insurrectionary districts, provided for taking land in such districts to pay a tax, the President before the 22d of Feb., to make a proclamation specifying what districts are in such insurrection.

Mr. Sumner offered a resolution that Trustee Park, a trustee to the United States, be expelled from the Senate, referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

A resolution was adopted, instructing a Military Committee to inquire if any legislation was necessary to correct the evils now existing in the condition and management of hospitals.

The contested Kansas seat bill was taken up. Mr. Lane of Kansas asked that a memorial be read; also an order from the War Department, and said the Committee did not have before them

a correct copy of the paper called an appointment.

Mr. Sumner thought the case should be re-committed.

Mr. Collier of Vermont, moved that the subject be re-committed to the Judiciary Com. After some discussion it was re-committed.

A communication was received from the War Department, transmitting the orders to Gen. Haleck.

A resolution was offered by Mr. Sumner of Mass., that the army shall not be used to subdue fugitive slaves; agreed to.

The resolution offered by Mr. Latham of Cal., asking the Secretary of State why passports were required of passengers from (blank) to San Francisco? Mr. Latham contended that passports should not be required from passengers going to a loyal State like California. The resolution was adopted.

After an Executive Session, Adjourned.

HOUSE.

Mr. Dawes of Massachusetts, from the Committee on Elections, reported that C. H. Foster is not entitled to a seat in Congress from North Carolina.

The House resumed the consideration of the bill to secure homesteads to settlers, or heads of families, or those who have attained 21 years and are citizens of the United States, or filed intention to become such. The provisions are extended to all who have performed service in suppression of the rebellion. In less than three months volunteers, are to receive \$30, and all who have served six months \$10.

Mr. Holman of Indiana proposed an amendment extending the bounty law of March, 1855 to those engaged in the present war.

Mr. Vandalingham of Ohio opposed the amendment, contending that it would strike a death blow to the entire homestead policy. He advocated the bill.

Mr. Corode of Penn. offered a modification of Mr. Holman's amendment, which the latter accepted, that the provision shall not take effect until one year after the passage of the bill.

After some debate, during which Mr. Colfax's amendment, led by the Lieut. Colonel, drove back over 100 rebel cavalry, artillery and infantry. They were first attacked by a regiment of Texas cavalry whom they repulsed, when they were driven into ambuscade and fired at on all sides by the rebel infantry. The Federals returned the fire vigorously, and stood their ground until the rebels fled back, leaving all their dead and most of their wounded on the field. No reinforcements reached Van Weebler, the Federal Commander, as reported, till after the engagement was over. Some's Louisville battery supported the Federals from the North side of Green river, firing a very long range from rifled cannon. Four other companies were on the South side of the river, but were engaged as pickets of a mile distant from the action.

Mr. Stevens, from the Ways and Means Committee, reported the civil appropriation bill, also a bill appropriating a million dollars for gunboats on the Western waters, in addition to former sums. The bill passed.

The House went into Com. of the Whole on the state of the Union, and considered the invalid pension bill. It was amended on motion of Mr. Blair of Mo., so that no pension shall be paid under this act to any person engaged in the present rebellion, or who is in any way but given aid and comfort to those engaged in the rebellion. The bill passed.

Mr. Steele of N. J. offered a resolution that the Select Committee on the alleged contract abuses be requested to inquire as to the policy of abolishing sutlers, or regulating the system in accordance with the requirements of the protection of soldiers.

Mr. Colfax of Ind., called attention to a communication from the Post Office Department stating that it has been ascertained that members of Congress frequently give envelopes to cover matter unknown to them, &c. He hoped the simple statement of facts would correct the abuses without further legislation. Adj'd.

Very Latest by Telegraph!

4 O'CLOCK P.M.

FROM WASHINGTON—THE MASON AND SLIDELL FAIR.

N.Y. NEW YORK.

The Tribune's Washington dispatch says the English messenger to Lord Lyons and the bearer of Mr. Adams' dispatches to our government, reached Washington last night at midnight.

To-day the President will send to the Senate a message on the subject of our relations with England.

A rumor prevailed in Washington, yesterday, that the Government had decided to give up Mason and Slidell, but this had no foundation. The question could not be decided before the receipt of our minister's dispatches, and the Admin. will carry out only a formal dispatch, it is thought, announcing the arrival of the messenger.

The Times' despatch says a cabinet meeting was held yesterday at which the whole matter of the Trent was discussed, though informally, as neither the Queen's messenger nor the one from minister Adams had then arrived.

The sentiment prevalent is understood to have been that no quarrel with England must be permitted to interfere with putting down the rebellion.

The demands of England, whatever they may be, will be met in a spirit of conciliation.

SLAVERY IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

A resolution was offered in the Washington City Council favoring the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia. The resolution was tabled—9 against 4.

PROTECTION FOR COMMERCE.

The slopes of war Constitution at Portsmouth and the Macedonian at Boston, when they shall have been refitted, are under orders to cruise in foreign seas for the protection of our commerce.

The steamer Wyoming, of the Pacific Coast,

goes to China waters for the same purpose.

ENGLAND FORBIDS THE SHIPMENT OF ARMS.

A letter received in Washington yesterday from a firm in Liverpool, which had made a large shipment of arms, states that all arms have been taken from the vessels, that 60,000 that were to be shipped have been retained, and that no more will be permitted to be shipped.

FORTRESS MONROE, Dec. 18.

The Georgians brought down from Baltimore this morning, Hon. Chas. Faulkner, en route for Richmond. He is confident of being able to exchange himself for Mr. Ely. He spent the day at Gen. W. W.'s adquaters, and was sent by a flag of truce to Craney Island at noon—Capt. Millwood, on his return, brought Capt.

Picketts who was taken a prisoner at Bull Run. He was released by the rebels on parole, or to be exchanged if possible for Capt. Delgrave.

The steamer S. R. Spaulding arrived from Port Royal the 15th, via Hatteras the 17th.—All was quiet at Hatteras. The schooner Charity, Capt. White, owned by Senator Sumner, arrived at Hatteras on the 15th with an assault cargo, including a large proportion of whiskey. She also took a collector to Hatteras who procured a building from the commissioners which he proposed using as a custom house.

Capt. White's papers were very irregular and the schooner was seized on the 17th by Capt. Weston of the Stars and Stripes as a prize, and sent to New York. The collector, captain, and crew arrived on the Spaulding and are very indignant at their treatment.

There is little news from Port Royal. The Federal troops fully occupied the town of Beaufort. Large quantities of cotton continue to be gathered and brought to the coast.

NASHVILLE TENN., Dec. 16.

via NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 17.

The Bowling Green correspondent of the Union and American says, that a Yankee advance of 5000 or 6000 men are at Green River, but have shown no disposition to cross. They are preparing a bridge.

FREDERICK, Dec. 17.

Gen. Kelley is progressing steadily, though slowly, towards Winchester from Romney. He has daily skirmishes with the rebel advance guard.

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.

The British ship Cheshire from Liverpool, attempting to run the blockade at Savannah was captured by the gun boat August and sent here in charge of a prize crew, has arrived.—She had a cargo of coffee, salt, and army blankets.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.

Capt. George Cook has arrived from Boston with dispatches from the American Minister in London to Mr. Seward. The contents of those brought by the Queen's messenger to Lord Lyons, up to one o'clock, had not been communicated to our government.

WILLIAMSBURG, Dec. 19.

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